

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-3 and 5-12 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus for forming an image using a plurality of printing head heads for ejecting ink and ~~an~~ a plurality of ink containing section sections for containing the ink to be supplied to the printing head heads, the plurality of the printing heads and the ink containing sections being used in association with plural types of inks, comprising:

means for discharging the ink through an ink ejection opening of ~~said the~~ printing head heads to stabilize ink ejecting characteristics of ~~said the~~ printing head heads;

means for detecting the degree of use of the ink in ~~said the~~ ink containing section sections;

means for comparing the detected degree of use of the ink with a predetermined value; and

control means for changing the amount discharged by said discharging means in accordance with the result of the comparison; and

means for judging whether there is an ink that is not used to form an image when the image is formed, on the basis of the judgment result by said judging means, said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink in the ink containing section containing

the ink that is not used to form the image to contribute to the comparison with the predetermined value and the process of changing the amount discharged.

2. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink based on the consumption of the ink in the ink containing ~~section~~ sections.

3. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink based on the amount of ink remaining in the ink containing ~~section~~ sections.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said judging means judges whether there is an ink that is not used to form the image based on a printing information in association with ~~the~~ image data.

6. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined value depends on the time that passes since a predetermined point in time that comes after the ink is ~~contained~~ stored in ~~said~~ the ink containing ~~section~~ sections.

7. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the date of manufacture of ~~said~~ the ink containing ~~section~~ sections serves as a reference for ~~said~~ the predetermined point in time.

8. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said discharging means performs the discharging process by driving the printing ~~head~~ heads to cause preliminary ejections of the ink.

9. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said control means causes the discharging process to be performed during the formation of the image and changes the number of the preliminary ejections to change the amount discharged.

10. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said control means causes the discharging process to be performed during the formation of the image and changes time intervals at which it the discharging process is performed, thereby changing the amount discharged.

11. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the ink inks includes a pigment as a coloring material.

12. (Currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the ~~ink~~ inks is a black ink.